

CLAIMS:

1. An electronic device comprising:

a case;

an electronics module contained by said case and including at least a processor and a memory configured to store a plurality of available mode settings for the electronic device; and

an input mechanism configured to provide input commands to said processor, wherein said processor is configured to, based on said input commands, configure said electronic device to provide a custom mode setting for a subset of the plurality of available modes.

2. The electronic device of Claim 1, wherein said case comprises a digital watch case.

3. The electronic device of Claim 1, wherein said case comprises a personal electronic device case having a relatively small display and three or fewer selection buttons as said input mechanism.

4. The electronic device of Claim 1, wherein said electronics module further comprises a crystal oscillator that provides digital timing inputs to the processor.

5. The electronic device of Claim 1, wherein the input mechanism comprises at least one selector button.

6. The electronic device of Claim 5, wherein said at least one selector button comprises three selector buttons.

7. The electronics device of Claim 6, wherein said three selector buttons comprise a mode button, a start/stop button, and a stop/reset button.

8. The electronic device of Claim 1, wherein said processor operates in a current operation mode sequence where the input mechanism is used to initiate functions of a current mode of the electronic device.

9. The electronic device of Claim 1, wherein said processor operates in a custom mode sequence where the input mechanism is used to select said subset of the available modes to be provided in a custom mode setting.

10. The electronic device of Claim 1, wherein said available modes comprise at least one of a chronograph, a recall, a timer, a time, an alarm, a date, and an EL backlight mode.

11. The electronic device of Claim 12, wherein said EL backlight mode provides backlighting for a display of said electronic device when the input mechanism is operated by the user.

12. The electronic device of Claim 1, wherein said input mechanism is configured to provide a reset of the electronic device to clear at least one setting of the electronic device.

13. A method of setting custom modes in an electronic device, comprising:  
operating an input mechanism of the electronic device to initiate a custom mode setting sequence;

operating the input mechanism to select one of a plurality of available modes of operation of the electronic device; and

operating the input mechanism to toggle said selected mode on or off, wherein a mode toggled off is unavailable for use by a user of the electronic device.

14. The method of Claim 13, wherein said available modes comprise at least one of a chronograph mode, recall mode, countdown timer mode, time mode, alarm mode, date mode, and EL backlight mode.

15. The method of Claim 13, further comprising operating the input mechanism to enter a normal operation sequence of the electronic device, wherein the input device is repeatedly operated to sequentially display the toggled on modes on a display of the electronic device.

16. The method of Claim 15, further comprising selecting a mode of operation from said subset of modes.

17. The method of Claim 13, further comprising operating the input mechanism to perform a reset of the electronic device.

18. A computer-readable medium containing program instructions for execution on a processor, which when executed by the processor, cause the electronic device to perform the steps in the method recited in any one of Claims 13-17.

19. An electronic device comprising:

means for containing an electronic module, including at least a processor;  
means for storing a plurality of mode settings;  
means for inputting input commands to said processor, wherein said processor is configured to, based on said input commands, configure the electronic device to provide a custom mode setting for a subset of the plurality of available modes.